

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) An apparatus including an array of pixel cells for a light valve, the apparatus comprising:

an array of pixel cells arranged in a checkerboard pattern having a first set of squares alternating with a second set of squares, such that pixel cells in the first set of squares are diagonally adjacent pixel cells in the second set of squares, diagonally adjacent pixel cells having a gap formed therebetween, the gap including a first edge defined by a pixel cell from the first set of squares and a second edge defined by a pixel cell from the second set of squares, the first and second edges being parallel;

dielectric spacer structures intervening in the gaps between the first set of squares and the second set of squares; and

structure projecting over a substantial portion of the dielectric spacer structures thereby shielding the dielectric spacer structures from incident light.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise silicon oxide.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise silicon nitride.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise a low-k dielectric material selected from the group consisting of fluorosilicate glass, nanoporous silica, and organic polymers.